Labour courts and industrial tribunals in the country

412. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Wilt the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is adequate number of labour courts and tribunals functioning in the country;

(b) the number of cases pending in these courts; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to increase the number of labour courts and tribunals and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) to (c) There were 17 Central Government Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Courts (CGIT's) constituted for adjudication of industrial disputes in the Central sphere. During the Tenth Five Year Plan, five new Central Government Insutrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Courts have been set up taking the total number of 22. In the circumstances, it may be difficult to set up more number of CGIT-cum-Labour Courts during the 10th Five Year Plan.

As on 31.12.2004,14680 cases and 5068 applications were pending in the CGlT-cum-Labour Courts.

Review of pension reforms

413. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Wilt the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Employees Provident Fund rate hike to 9.5 per cent benefits only 4 per cent of India's working population;

(b) if so, whether Pension Reforms which hold the key for the major work force of the country, is already overdue; and

(c) what steps have been taken to review and reform the Pension Scheme so far?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) All the members of Employees Provident Fund Scheme will be benefited in the interest rate of Employees Provident Fund. As on 31.03.2004, there were 400.92 lakh members of the Employees' Provident Fund.

(b) and (c) The Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 administered by the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation is a funded scheme, which is valued annually by a Valuer appointed by the Central Government. It may alter the rate of contribution payable under the scheme or scale of benefits admissible under the scheme if the fund so permits through valuation process. On the basis of the first four valuations, the Central Government had approved relief to the existing pensioners resulting in additional benefits. Central Board of Trustees (Employees Provident Fund) has initiated various steps in line with the measures recommended by the Actuarial Valuation Reports.

Appointment of Presiding Officer in Labour Court

414. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no Presiding Officer in the Labour Court of Central Industrial Tribunal, New Delhi for the last five years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the total number of cases pending with the court and since when these cases are pending; and

(d) the measures taken by Government for appointing the Presiding Officer of this Labour Court so as to give relief to the workers whose cases are pending there for a long time?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Government has constituted two Central Government Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Courts (CGIT's) in Delhi. Year-wise details of the number of pending cases in these CGIT-cum-Labour Courts is as given below:-

Year	CGIT-I, Delhi	CGIT-II, Delhi*
2000	1101	_
2001	1135	.
2002	1172	-
2003	1142	92
2004	617	188

"The CGIT-cum-Labour Court-ll, New Delhi has started functioning from August 2003.